



## **Commonwealth of Kentucky Personnel Cabinet**

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### **Anderson Laureate Award Winner Announced** *During the 2006 Governor's EEO Conference*

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – The 2006 recipient of the Anderson Laureate Award is Dr. Barbara Shanklin, named today at the Governor's Equal Employment Opportunity Conference held in Louisville.

"Dr. Shanklin has made monumental steps in improving life for all Kentuckians, despite race, religion, age, gender or disability, said Governor Ernie Fletcher. "She has fed the hungry, clothed the poor, and aided those afflicted by drugs and alcohol in Jefferson County; she is a true model of service without bias."

The Anderson Laureate award, named after former Kentucky legislator Charles Anderson, Jr., is given to a Kentuckian who has enhanced opportunity and equality in the areas of race, color, age, national origin, gender, religion or disability.

Troy Body, Executive Director for the Governor's Office of Minority Empowerment, presented the award. "Shanklin's commitment and devotion to community service is a testament to this award," said Body. "She initiates projects and sees them through to the bitter end."

Shanklin was elected to serve on the first Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Council in November, 2002. In 2005, she became the first African-American and the first woman to preside as president of the Metro Council. Previously, she served as Majority Caucus Chair for the council where she took on such issues as section eight housing and garbage complaints. She worked at General Electric for 27 years, serving as an EEOC representative and earning the nick-name, "country lawyer" for her undying commitment to fair treatment. While at General Electric, Shanklin became the first African-American to teach computer classes at Appliance Park University. Twelve years later, she still teaches computer classes, oversees GED preparation classes, and, most recently, helped start an ex-offender program to teach job skills to released prisoners. Many students have obtained entry-level jobs in businesses throughout the community as a result.

Shanklin is also credited with helping to shut down three known drug houses in Jefferson County. In her first bold attempt to rid one area of drug activity, Shanklin worked with neighbors for six months to literally stand in front of the alleged drug house every day until the criminal activity ceased. She has held several marches and rallies to fight drugs.

“I am so humbled by this award,” Shanklin said. “I really feel honored to receive it, especially when you consider all that others have done for Jefferson County as well.”

Raising four children as a single mother prompted Shanklin to further her education. During several different lay-offs at General Electric, she earned degrees. Shanklin holds an Ed. D. from Spaulding University, a Master’s degree in training and communications from Webster University, a Bachelor’s degree in business from McKendree University, and an Associate degree in computer programming from Watterson College.

Shanklin also has seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.